

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1        1. A weather radar display system, comprising:  
2              a weather radar antenna;  
3              processing electronics, coupled to the weather radar antenna,  
4              enhancing weather radar returns based on a reflectivity model which  
5              differentiates lower level activity from higher level activity when the weather  
6              activity is detected from weather systems at long range and the reflectivity using  
7              short range thresholds would display only higher level activity; and  
8              a weather radar display displaying multiple colors representative of  
9              the different levels of weather activity based on the enhanced returns.
- 1        2. The weather radar display of claim 1, wherein the colors comprise  
2      red, yellow, and green.
- 1        3. The weather radar display of claim 1, wherein the model is based  
2      on empirical data.
- 1        4. The weather radar display of claim 1, wherein the model is a  
2      mathematical model.
- 1        5. The weather radar display of claim 1, wherein the thresholds are  
2      not changed from short range thresholds.
- 1        6. A weather radar display system, comprising:  
2              a weather radar antenna;  
3              processing electronics, coupled to the weather radar antenna,  
4              enhancing weather radar returns of long lines of storms detected at long range,  
5              the enhancement based on local averaging of weather radar returns, and  
6              produced in an iterative process; and

7                   a weather radar display displaying multiple colors representative of  
8 the different levels of weather activity based on the enhanced returns.

1                 7.       The weather radar display of claim 6, wherein the colors comprise  
2 red, yellow, and green.

1                 8.       The weather radar display of claim 6, wherein the averaging is  
2 carried out over a first subset of the returns and individual values of the subset of  
3 returns are adjusted based on the average.

1                 9.       The weather radar display of claim 8, wherein the averaging is  
2 carried out over a second subset of the returns and individual values of the  
3 subset of returns are adjusted based on the average of the second subset.

1                 10.      The weather radar display system of claim 9, wherein the second  
2 subset overlaps the first subset.

1                 11.      A method of processing weather radar display returns from long  
2 range weather radar, comprising:

3                   receiving the weather radar returns;  
4                   providing a model of conventional weather systems;  
5                   applying the model to the received weather radar returns; and  
6                   applying conventional weather radar display thresholds.

1                 12.      The method of claim 11, wherein the model is based on empirical  
2 data.

1                 13.      The method of claim 11, wherein the model is a mathematical  
2 model.

1           14. The method of claim 11, further comprising:  
2                 displaying a first color on the display for data having values above a  
3                 first threshold.

1           15. The method of claim 11, further comprising:  
2                 displaying a second color on the display for data having values  
3                 below a second threshold.

1           16. A method of processing weather radar display returns from long  
2                 range weather radar, comprising:  
3                 receiving the weather radar returns;  
4                 averaging a first subset of the weather radar returns; and  
5                 adjusting the individual values of the first subset based on the  
6                 averaging.

1           17. The method of claim 16, further comprising:  
2                 averaging a second subset of weather radar returns ; and  
3                 adjusting the individual values of the second subset based on the  
4                 average of the second subset.

1           18. The method of claim 17, wherein the first subset and the second  
2                 subset overlap and the second subset contains previously enhanced values.

1           19. The method of claim 16, further comprising:  
2                 dividing a region of the weather radar display into a grid.

1           20. The method of claim 16, wherein the method is applied to storm  
2                 systems in the intertropical convergence zones.